

CITY OF WINCHESTER
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD
September 30, 2010
Winchester City Yards Conference Room
5:35 P.M.
MINUTES & ACTION ITEMS

- I. Board Chair Gerald Crowell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In attendance were Gerald Crowell, Dave Worthington, Woody Bousquet and Jim Giraytys.
- II. The minutes from the meeting on August 26, 2010 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as modified by Jim Giraytys, seconded by Woody Bousquet. Approved by a 4-0 vote.
- III. No-Mow Ordinance: Woody Bousquet and Dave Worthington agreed that the ordinance should be forwarded to Tom Hoy with thanks to Vince Diem. They also agreed to ask what the next step in the process is.
- IV. Valley Air Now: Jim Giraytys said that the ozone meter will be turned off at the end of October and it will be turned back on in April. Jim said that if the city is going to do anything that there is a series of recommendations that will come out from the Air Quality Task Force normally in March with recommendations on funding levels. Jim said that when the city was involved with the funding they were quite involved in the schools and there was a lot of student and teacher activity. Jim said that there is a small part in the Standards of Learning that relates to air quality. Jim said that they are willing to go to the schools to give a presentation on air quality. Jim said that he thinks that \$15,000 is a reasonable level to show some interest in the air quality issues. Jim said that he recommends that the city provide matching funds with Frederick County up to \$75,000. Jim said that it is a very important outreach program that needs to be extended into the city. Jim said that the city used to contribute but due to budget constraints the funding was discontinued. Jim said the PM 2.5 is going to be on the table and will present some difficulty if there is not a good baseline. Jim said the meter could be placed in town or on the outskirts of town and it might give a better indication because there is so much traffic on Interstate 81 that the one gauge might not give a good indication of what issues there are with particular matter in the city. Jim said that if the city was fully vested then they could be part of the planning of the location of the gauges. Jim said that the various facilities are required by state law to have a PM 10 monitor on their stacks if they are manufacturing. Jim said that these are unfortunately self monitored and no one checks the gauges to see if they are functioning properly. Jim said that the PM 10 gauge is much less expensive than the PM 2.5 gauge. Jim said that an agreement might be worked out with the Virginia DEQ as far as putting in the gauge and the cost. Gerald asked if there is a cost for the collection and maintenance of the gauges. Jim said that there is a cost but he hopes the state would assume those responsibilities. Jim said that there is some state funding for collection and maintenance but not for the installation costs. Dave asked Jim what he would recommend doing to get started. Jim said that an initial investment of \$15,000 by the city would get them involved in the planning. He said

that there is some concern that if the city doesn't do that then Frederick County may cancel the program in 2011. Jim said that he thinks it is important to get a good faith representation from the city. Jim said that the Air Quality Task Force should have a full set of actions for 2011 before the new city budget is approved so that the city can look at that and decide on the amount they are willing to contribute. Woody Bousquet said that if the Natural Resources Advisory Board thinks this is a good idea then they should prepare a letter of endorsement. He asked if Jim could prepare a letter and Jim said that he could. Woody said that the recommendation should be submitted in January and then submit a re-statement with the additional task force information in April or May. Gerald Crowell asked Jim to draft a letter of support for the city's continued participation in Valley Air Now for consideration at the next meeting.

- V. Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve: Dave Worthington said that the Natural Resources Advisory Board is not providing administration of the preserve. He said that they are just providing advice to the Winchester Parks and Recreation Department. Woody Bousquet suggested making a request to Brad Veach to see if he would be interested in having the Natural Resources Advisory Board assume responsibilities for advising Parks and Recreation on the Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve and Shawnee Springs. Woody said that one of the issues concerning management of the Wetlands Preserve is encroachment. He said that another issue is invasive native trees. He said that it is natural for woody plants to start invading the marshes. He said that what is distinctive about the preserve is the marsh plants. He said that many of them are rare and two of them can't be found anywhere else in Virginia. He said that fire keeps marshes from turning into swamps without the fire the trees need to be cut. He said that it will involve something that the Natural Resources Advisory Board is capable of doing and that is educating the people nearby. He said that after the trees are cut, the stumps will need to be sprayed with pesticides. He said that the city is inviting encroachment by not marking its boundaries.
- VI. The action items were assigned for the October meeting.
- VII. Incoming Chair Dave Worthington: Dave said that he would like to continue doing things the way they were done in the past. Gerald said that there were three things he wanted to accomplish while he was the Chair. He said that he wanted to make the Natural Resources Advisory Board a legal entity; he wanted the name in front of both City Council and the general public. He said that he thinks all of those things were accomplished. He said that he thinks the board works well together and he looks forward to stepping down. Woody thanked Gerald for being a fair and hard working leader.

Dave Worthington made a motion to keep Woody Bousquet as Vice-Chair; seconded by Jim Giraytys, motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Gerald said that he would be glad to continue as liaison to the Tree Commission.

- IX. Any Other Business: Gerald said that he received a letter from Ms. Audra Gollenberg requesting Natural Resources Advisory Board members to speak to students. Dave said that he thinks it would be a good idea for Woody to check with Ms. Gollenberg to see exactly what she is looking for. Woody said that he would be happy to contact her and let her know that he could give an overview on water and Jim Giraytys could give an overview on air and Gerald Crowell can talk about forestry.

Gerald said that as far as he knows there is still not a City Council liaison for the Natural Resources Advisory Board. He said that he thinks Tom Hoy asked Jim O'Connor and no one has gotten back to them yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

NO.	ACTION ITEM:	ASSIGNED TO:	TARGET DATE:	STATUS:
1	Check with Tom Hoy about getting the minutes posted on the city website.	Dave Worthington		
2	Send revised No-Mow ordinance to Tom Hoy with thanks to Vince Diem. Check on the next step.	Dave Worthington		
3	Draft Valley Air Now support letter	Jim Giraytys		
4	Draft letter to Brad Veach about assuming an advising role for the city's two preserves	Woody Bousquet		
5	Follow up on City Council Natural Resources Advisory Board liaison	Gerald Crowell		